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**PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Band 8, Nr.
269 (P-319), 8. Dezember 1984; & JP-A-59 136
809 (TOSHIBA K.K.) 27-01-1983**

**PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Band 9, Nr.
6 (P-326), 11. Januar 1985; & JP-A-59 154 320
(TOSHIBA K.K.) 03-09-1984**

**AIAA/SAE 8TH JOINT PROPULSION SPECIAL-
IST CONFERENCE, New Orleans, 29. Novem-
ber 1. Dezember 1972, AIAA Paper No.
72-1082; L.A. URBAN: "Gas path analysis ap-
plied to turbine engine condition monitor-
ing"**

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EP 0 315 307 B1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention relates to a method and system for processing data relating to the performance of apparatus having a number of distinct components in order to estimate both changes in the performance of the individual components making up the apparatus and biases or systematic errors in a measurement system being used to determine the performance of the apparatus and its components. It has particular relevance to analysing the performance of gas turbines, although it has more general applications to a wide
 10 variety of apparatus including machines, particularly prime movers and other rotary machines, and plant, such as chemical process plant, generating and distribution plant, etc.

Monitoring the performance of such machines and plant can yield important data on maintenance requirements to achieve safe, economical and reliable operation. It is particularly important in such circumstances to determine both which components of the machine or plant being monitored have deviated
 15 from their required performance specifications and which measurements being used for monitoring have developed systematic errors, in order to refurbish or replace only those components which have deteriorated and refurbish, replace or recalibrate faulty measuring equipment that, because of the presence of systematic errors, is producing spurious indications.

It is important to note that the overall performance of any apparatus made up of a number of
 20 components is completely determined by the performance of such components. For example, in a gas turbine, overall performance measurements such as fuel consumption, speed, exhaust temperature, etc. are determined by component performance parameters such as efficiency, flow capacity, etc. Generally, changes in one or more component performance parameters will cause changes in one or more overall performance measurements, and it is only possible to alter overall performance measurements by altering
 25 one or more component performance parameters. Thus, it is only possible to improve the fuel consumption of a gas turbine by altering the efficiency and/or flow capacity of one or more of its components. Naturally, some apparent changes in overall performance may be caused, not by component performance changes, but by biases in the measurements used to determine the overall performance. The problem exists, therefore, to be able to assess, from an analysis of changes in performance measurements, both the
 30 component performance parameters that have changed and the biases in the measurements.

To assist the engineer in this task, recent years have seen the introduction of computer-based performance data analysis systems, particularly in the field of gas turbines. From the preceding comments it can be appreciated that any analysis has to be performed using a number of known data items (i.e. performance measurements) which is generally less than the number of unknown data items (i.e. component performance parameter changes and sensor biases). There is therefore no single true solution set of
 35 component performance parameter changes and sensor biases to be derived from a particular set of performance measurement data, and techniques are required that derive the most likely solution. In particular, so-called Optimal Estimation or Kalman Filtering computation techniques have been used to analyse gas turbine performance data (see, for example, "Gas Path Analysis applied to Turbine Engine Condition Monitoring", L.A. Urban, AIAA 72-1082 (1973) and "Gas Path Analysis: An Approach to Engine Diagnostics", Dr A.J.Volponi, 35th Mechanical Failures Prevention Group (1982)). The basic theory behind Kalman Filtering is also well known (see, for example, "Digital and Kalman Filtering", S.M. Bozic, Pub E Arnold (1984); "Applied Optimal Estimation", A Gelb (ed), Pub MIT Press (1974); "Applied Optimal Control", A.E.Bryson and Y.C.Ho, Pub Halstead Press (1975); "System Identification", P.Eykhoff, Pub Wiley
 45 (1974)).

The Kalman Filter is an algorithm for producing, from given data, the most likely solution, based on the method of least squares. Stated in its simplest form it may be seen as a weighting matrix (sometimes termed the Kalman Gain Matrix) which inter-relates a-priori information (specifically a covariance matrix of component changes and sensor biases, a measurement repeatability covariance matrix and a System
 50 Matrix, ie a matrix giving the relationships between observed measurement changes and component changes and sensor biases) to enable the most likely set of component changes and sensor biases to be calculated from the observed performance measurement changes.

The Kalman Filter algorithm is thus given a set of observed performance measurement changes. Each of these changes represents the change in value of a parameter from a datum level (at which there are no component changes or sensor biases to be taken into account) to an operational level (which has been
 55 affected by such changes and biases). The algorithm calculates which set of component performance changes and sensor biases is most likely to have caused the given set of observed performance measurement changes, using information described in the preceding paragraph.

An inherent shortcoming of the Kalman Filter is that, because it operates on the basis of least squares, it tends to allocate a value to all possible component changes and sensor biases, even if the observed performance measurement changes input to the filter are due to only a small sub-set of the possible component changes and sensor biases. The effects of any genuine component performance changes and/or sensor biases therefore tend to be "smeared" over all possible component changes and sensor biases, leading to under-estimation of actual component changes and/or sensor biases which may have occurred in any particular situation.

In the extensive literature describing the use of the Kalman Filter for the analysis of apparatus (particularly gas turbines), this problem is either ignored or is addressed in one of four different ways, namely:

- a) the problem is alleviated, but not eliminated, by adjustment of the a-priori matrices used to calculate the Kalman Gain Matrix,
- b) other algorithms are run after the Kalman Filter which assume the presence of a single component change or sensor bias; these algorithms are activated if the results from the Kalman Filter exceed certain thresholds,
- c) searches are made for sensor biases using separate algorithms run before and/or after the Kalman filter,
- d) "banks" of Kalman filters are set up to analyse a given piece of apparatus: each filter in such a bank is set up to analyse a different combination of component changes and sensor biases, while other algorithms are used to decide which filter is correct in any given situation.

Patent no. US-A-4215412 (Bernier et al.) provides an instance of the use of Kalman filtering in performance monitoring, in which the above problem seems to be ignored. The patent is concerned with digital processing of sensor data to make predictions of values of gas turbine engine performance parameters which are indicative of performance deterioration. Values of actual and predicted performance parameters are compared to derive deviation signals which are supplied to monitoring logic. The monitoring logic uses the deviation signals to indicate faults within the digital processor, the sensors and the engine and to determine trends in the performance parameters. Specifically, Kalman filtering is used to determine the values of certain performance related coefficients distinctive of the particular gas turbine engine whose performance is being monitored. It is also used to derive performance trend coefficients whose current values reflect long-term changes in the monitored performance parameters.

On the other hand, Patent Abstract of Japan Band 9, No.6 (P-326) 11.1.85 appears to provide an example of strategy (b), described above, whereas Patent Abstract of Japan Band 8, No.269 (P-319) 8.12.84 seems to be an example of the above strategy (c).

The above approaches are unsatisfactory because they either work within the restrictions of the Kalman filter without solving the basic "smearing" tendency, or rely on gross assumptions about the number and/or combinations and/or magnitudes of component changes and/or sensor biases, which may not always be correct.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides a method for processing data relating to the performance of an apparatus, the apparatus including a plurality of components whose individual performances affect the performance of the apparatus and a plurality of sensors for giving inputs to a performance measurement system, the inputs from the sensors being subject to biases which produce errors in the measured performance of the apparatus, the method involving determination of changes in component performance and magnitude of sensor biases from a series of performance measurements, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) defining a-priori information required by a Kalman filter, comprising
 - i) a covariance matrix of component performance measurement changes and sensor biases,
 - ii) a measurement non-repeatability covariance matrix,
 - iii) a system matrix which provides relationships between observed performance measurement changes and sensor biases;
- b) using the performance measurement system to obtain datum levels of the performance measurements from the apparatus;
- c) using the performance measurement system to obtain performance measurements from the apparatus;
- d) using data obtained in steps (b) and (c) to derive performance measurement differences from datum levels;

- e) using data obtained in steps (a) and (d) to derive a most likely set of component performance changes and sensor biases by employing a Kalman filter; the method being characterised by the further steps of
 f) evaluating an objective function giving a measure of the amount of unexplained performance measurement change and/or the amounts of component performance measurement change and sensor bias in the solution from (e),
 5 g) discarding one or more of the component performance changes and/or sensor biases, to leave one or more of said component changes and/or sensor biases for evaluation;
 h) repeating steps (e) to (g), if required, until the total number of component performance changes and sensor biases remaining is one; and
 10 i) considering sets of estimated component performance changes and sensor biases produced in each repeat of step (e), together with the corresponding objective function evaluated according to step (f), to identify as a best result that repeat of step (e) which has produced a minimum number of component performance changes and sensor biases that satisfactorily account for the calculated performance measurement differences.

15 In the performance of the method for processing data, the reiteration of steps (e) to (g) produces a sequence of vectors of component performance changes and sensor biases which account for the observed performance measurement differences, each successive vector containing progressively reducing numbers of component performance changes and sensor biases. The selection of an appropriate result is made by using the objective function, worked out for each vector in step (f) above. One method of working out such
 20 an objective function is to derive the sum of squares of the unexplained measurement changes, weighted according to the measurement repeatability covariance matrix. This gives a value which has a chi-square distribution, with as many degrees of freedom as there are performance measurements to be analysed.

In the the final result from step (i), above, the selected best answer is preferably refined by discarding those elements whose values (expressed e.g. either in absolute terms or as a number of standard
 25 deviations) are less than a predetermined lower level, in order to eliminate minor component changes and sensor biases that can be safely ignored or that may be present in the answer as a residual "smearing" effect.

As a preferred basis for the rejection process in step (g), the estimated component changes and sensor biases can be normalised by dividing the individual estimated component changes and sensor biases by
 30 the square roots of the corresponding diagonal elements of the a-posteriori covariance matrix produced as output from the Kalman Filter.

To select the elements to be discarded in step (h), a preferred method on the first pass is to evaluate the average amount of absolute normalized change (i.e. with sign removed) and then discard all elements whose absolute normalized change is below that average. For subsequent passes, all component changes
 35 and/or sensor biases whose absolute values of normalized change are less than the previous pass are discarded; however, in each pass provision must be made to reject at least one component change or bias (usually the one having the smallest absolute value of normalized change) and to retain at least one component change or sensor bias (usually the one having the largest absolute value of normalized change).

When establishing the System Matrix, the effects of changes in the components of the apparatus under
 40 investigation on the measurements used to determine the performance of the apparatus and its components must be determined. Care should be exercised to ensure that suitable measurements are taken that respond in distinct ways to the component changes being sought.

GAS TURBINE ANALYSIS

45 In the example of a gas turbine analysis, the component changes may involve changes in seal clearances, the presence of foreign matter in particular locations, the opening of gas leakage paths, etc. These can each be related to one or more component performance parameter changes. A list of these related changes can be drawn up, as in the following example.

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<u>Component Changes</u>	<u>Performance Parameter Changes</u>
5 turbine tip seal rubs	turbine efficiency changes
nozzle guide vane platform seal	turbine capacity changes;
10 gaps; blocked nozzle guide vane	cooling air changes
cooling holes	
15 compressor blade tip erosion;	compressor efficiency changes
dirt on compressor blades;	
20 damage by foreign object	
mis-shapen final nozzle	nozzle discharge and velocity
25	coefficient changes
30 seal gap increases	cooling air changes
air offtake pipe leaks	environmental control system
35	bleed changes

40 The causes of a change in engine performance can accordingly be expressed as a series of component performance parameter changes. Thus, for example:

- fan tip efficiency and capacity changes
- fan root/booster efficiency and capacity changes
- core compressor efficiency and capacity changes
- 45 turbine efficiency and capacity changes
- combustion chamber pressure loss changes
- by-pass duct pressure loss changes
- nozzle discharge and velocity coefficient changes
- cooling/sealing air flow changes
- 50 environmental control system bleed and power offtake changes

These changes will each affect overall engine performance parameters such as cruise specific fuel consumption, take-off turbine exhaust temperature, compressor working line levels, etc. The purpose of the performance measurements made is to enable resolution of the causes of such overall performance parameter changes, by identification of the individual component performance parameter changes that

55 caused them.

Few if any of the component performance parameter changes can be directly measured in practice. Moreover, the measurement instrumentation available in a production engine will be extremely limited as compared with a fully instrumented engine in a test rig. The typical performance measurements that may

be available are:

- shaft speeds
- fuel flow
- (test-bed) thrust

- 5 total inlet air flow (itself derived from total and static pressure measurements and total temperature)
 - total and/or static pressures in the engine gas path - through either single or multiple taps in that path
 - total and/or "static" temperatures in the engine gas path (the former through single or multiple taps and the latter through wall-mounted transducers)
 - 10 a power level parameter, e.g. exhaust pressure ratio or output shaft torque.
- After establishing the list of possible component performance parameter changes and the list of available performance measurements, a component exchange rate table is generated showing the percentage change in each performance measurement for a small change of each component performance parameter (e.g. a 1% change, or a unit change if the datum value is zero) at the operational conditions, i.e. the flight
- 15 conditions and power level, at which the analysis is to be performed.

FURTHER GENERAL FACTORS IN THE ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Also to be considered in the analysis of the performance of apparatus such as a gas turbine are
- 20 environmental parameters, since environmental changes can alter the engine performance. Measurements are therefore required defining the environmental conditions. Depending upon whether the analysis is being performed in flight or on a test-bed these should include altitude, Mach No, total air temperature (flight), cell pressure and air intake temperature (test-bed), and preferably appropriate measurements for humidity determination. With these there must always be one performance measurement from the preceding table
 - 25 before any form of analysis can begin: this measurement is used to define the power level.

- It will normally also be required to include the effects of environmental and power level measurement sensor bias in the analysis, for which it is necessary to calculate the effects of small (e.g., 1%) biases in flight conditions and power-setting parameter measurements, these having been assumed fixed when establishing the component exchange rate table. This is done by calculating the percentage changes in the
- 30 performance measurements if the flight condition and power level measurements are changed by a negative increment, to create the environmental exchange rate table. (The choice of the negative sign is because a positive bias, i.e., a higher reading than the actual value, will produce apparently depressed performance measurements).

- The effects of performance measurement sensor bias on the analysis can be included by generating a
- 35 further matrix. This can be formulated essentially as a matrix which states that a sensor bias (e.g., 1%) in a performance measurement produces a corresponding change in that measurement while leaving all the other measurements unaffected. If sensor bias is considered possible in all the measurements, this matrix is an identity matrix.

- A combined matrix, which is here termed the System Matrix, can then be created by concatenating the
- 40 component exchange rate table, the environmental exchange rate table and the performance measurement sensor bias matrix.

- A further factor which it is usually necessary to consider is the random error that exists in all measurement systems. That is to say, the degree of accuracy of any measurement is not represented solely by sensor biases; there will also be uncertainty due to random variations caused by many small
- 45 effects which lead to differences in repeated measurements of a given quantity. This error source is referred to here as repeatability. Random variations will also occur in the environmental and power level measurements, introducing further repeatability factors. It can be assumed, if bias is accounted for separately, that these random variations will have the well-known normal distribution. To take account of repeatability, it is therefore necessary to determine standard deviations for the repeatabilities of the
 - 50 environmental and power level measurements. The analysis must give due weight to the repeatability of all the measurements.

- The measurement repeatability standard deviations can be determined either by dedicated testing of the measurement system, in which the statistical properties of the measurement system are calculated from the output generated by known input signals, or from previous experience of either the system being used
- 55 or of similar systems in use elsewhere.

The standard deviations of component change and sensor bias can be determined by a variety of methods, for example by the analysis of data taken from a large "family" of nominally identical pieces of apparatus of the type being analysed, or by making an informed assessment using experience and

judgement, perhaps refined by studying the response of the Kalman Filter to performance measurement changes corresponding to known component changes and sensor biases.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF AN ANALYTICAL PROCESS

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To establish the Kalman Filter, the following input is required:

- a) component exchange rate and environmental exchange rate tables, as discussed above, which are used to produce the System Matrix; these tables contain the established relationships between component changes and performance measurements and the changes in performance measurements due to environmental and power level measurement errors,
- b) a set of expected levels of performance measurements at the flight conditions and power level at which the analysis is to be performed for a datum engine - i.e. an engine with performance at some desired level with which other engines can be compared; since the best estimates of component changes and sensor biases produced by the Kalman Filter will be relative to this datum, it follows that the datum engine component changes and sensor biases are all zero: in the performance analysis, percentage differences between observed and expected levels of performance measurements will be input into the Kalman Filter to produce the desired best estimates of component changes and sensor biases that produced those differences,
- c) a set of standard deviations of the repeatability in the performance measurements, flight condition measurements and power level measurements from which the a-priori measurement non-repeatability covariance matrix is calculated,
- d) a set of standard deviations in the component changes and sensor biases about their normal (usually zero) levels: these are used to create the a-priori component change and sensor bias covariance matrix, usually (but not necessarily limited to) a diagonal matrix containing the squares of these standard deviations.

Considering the concept of the Kalman Filter, the basic equation defining the analysis being undertaken and which forms a starting point for the Kalman Filter is

$$\underline{y} = \underline{C} \cdot \underline{x} + \underline{v}$$

30

in which:

\underline{y} = (m · 1) column vector of differences between observed and expected levels of performance measurements

\underline{C} = (m · n) System Matrix, as described above, defining the effect on the performance measurements of given changes in component performance parameters, environmental and power level measurement sensor biases and performance measurement sensor biases

\underline{x} = (n · 1) column vector of changes in component performance parameters and sensor biases

\underline{v} = (m · 1) column vector of noise terms in the performance measurement differences - assumed to be normally distributed, with a mean zero and a known covariance \underline{R} .

It can be seen that the equation states the relationship between the performance measurement differences from expectation and the component changes and sensor biases that generated them. The noise terms represent a degree of corruption of the performance measurement differences due to random errors in the measurement system.

As has already been explained, since the number of terms (n) in \underline{x} is usually considerably greater than the number of terms (m) in \underline{y} , there is no unique solution that identifies which term or terms in \underline{x} has generated a change in \underline{y} . All that is possible by mathematical analysis is a "best estimate", i.e. a solution expressed as the most likely vector of component changes and sensor biases that has generated an observed vector of performance measurement differences. Through the algorithm known as the Kalman Filter that estimate can be generated.

The Kalman Filter can be expressed in the following group of equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\underline{x}} &= \hat{\underline{x}}_0 + \underline{K} \cdot (\underline{y} - \underline{C} \cdot \hat{\underline{x}}_0) \\ \underline{K} &= \underline{Q} \cdot \underline{C}^T \cdot (\underline{C} \cdot \underline{Q} \cdot \underline{C}^T + \underline{R})^{-1} \\ \underline{P}_1 &= (\underline{I} - \underline{K} \cdot \underline{C}) \cdot \underline{Q}\end{aligned}$$

55

where

$\hat{\underline{x}}$ = (n · 1) column vector of best estimates of component changes and sensor biases after performance measurement differences from expectation are observed

- \hat{x}_0 = (n + 1) column vector of best estimates of component changes and sensor biases before performance measurement differences from expectation are observed. This vector is usually zero; in this case $\hat{x} = K \cdot y$
 y = (m + 1) column vector of performance measurement differences from expectation
 K = (n + m) Kalman Gain Matrix
 C = (m + n) System Matrix, relating performance measurement differences to component changes and sensor biases
 Q = (n + n) a-priori covariance matrix of component changes and sensor biases
 P_1 = (n + n) a-posteriori covariance matrix of best estimates of component changes and sensor biases
 Superscript T denotes matrix transpose
 Superscript -1 denotes matrix inversion
 I denotes unit matrix of appropriate dimensions
 R = (m + m) a-priori measurement repeatability covariance matrix,
 which can be established in the form

$$R = C \cdot V \cdot C^T$$

in which

- V = (t + t) diagonal matrix of squares of standard deviations of repeatabilities, where t = number of environmental measurements plus number of performance measurements
 C = (m + t) matrix which contains both the environmental exchange rate table and a unit matrix concatenated together

The R matrix therefore contains the variances and covariances of the apparent repeatability in the performance measurement differences, arising from both repeatability in the observed performance measurements and the repeatability in the expected performance measurements that is a consequence of repeatability in the flight condition and power-level measurements that define the levels of expected performance measurements.

For a detailed derivation of the Kalman Filter equations, reference can be made to "Applied Optimal Estimation", A Gelb, M.I.T. Press 1974. The equations denote that K is proportional to the uncertainty in the estimation \hat{x} and is inversely proportional to the uncertainty in the measurements y ; K weights the changes made to \hat{x}_0 to produce \hat{x} depending upon the relative certainty of y and \hat{x} .

The use of prior information about expected levels of component changes and sensor biases, uncertainties in both the expected levels of component changes and sensor biases and uncertainties in the measurements relies upon the judgement of the skilled observer. That is to say, if there is no uncertainty about the mathematical relation between variables but considerations of repeatability indicate a large uncertainty in the measurements, the best estimate of the relationship will not be affected by measurements that do not conform to the established mathematical relationship. On the other hand if the relationship is uncertain and measurement repeatability is considered to be give negligible uncertainty, the best estimate of the relationship will be determined to a large extent by the measurements.

Generally, there is insufficient data available in the first instance for an adequate statistical analysis of these factors. From practical considerations, therefore, the values in the Q matrix are at least initially selected by the judgement of the user. To obtain a measure of how appropriate are the values chosen, in an initial processing of the input data it is possible to produce (by forming the product $K \cdot C$) the set of vectors of best estimates of component performance changes and sensor biases for performance measurement differences appropriate to a unit change of each component change or sensor bias in turn and to examine the results to see whether, for a specific change in the performance of a component or the bias of a sensor, there is an unwanted confusion of the sought-for change or bias with the other changes and biases included. Should this be observed, the Q matrix can be modified to reduce the possible confusion to a minimum.

In an ideal case, the product $(K \cdot C)$ would be a unit matrix; confusion between the different parameters gives the diagonals of the matrix values less than unity, as well as non-zero off-diagonal elements. A preferred method of refining the Q matrix relies on first normalising the $(K \cdot C)$ matrix by dividing each row by the corresponding diagonal element of the P_1 matrix. In the normalised matrix, the values in each column are then divided by the diagonal element of that column so as to produce a matrix in which all the diagonal elements are unity; this last step is performed primarily to aid recognition of the relative sizes of these diagonal elements to the other values of their column vector.

In making the comparison, the user will want to ensure that no ratio should be greater than unity, and that the number of ratios greater than 0.6, other than the diagonal element itself, should be minimised. The aim is that, for any column, the number of ratios greater than the average of the absolute values of all the ratios should be minimised. One way of doing this is to use an algorithm such as the Downhill Simplex Method (Nelder and Mead page 308, Computer Journal, Vol 7, 1965) to adjust the component change and sensor bias standard deviations. (i.e the square root of the diagonal elements of the \underline{Q} matrix) until the sum of the absolute values of the off-diagonal terms in the normalised ($\underline{K} \cdot \underline{C}$) matrix is minimised, giving extra weightings if necessary to elements with absolute values greater than 0.6 and elements with absolute values greater than 1.0.

If the analysis is carried out with no further refinement, however, the underlying mathematical principles, as already mentioned, result in all the component changes and sensor biases being analysed as non-zero and give a result in which the observed performance measurement changes are attributed to all the possible component changes and sensor biases that might have caused them. This introduces a "smearing" effect which can result in the actual component changes and sensor biases being underestimated. In accordance with the present invention, the result is treated so as to concentrate the estimates around the more significant component changes and sensor biases that appear through the basic Kalman Filter analysis. This involves selectively removing individual changes and biases while re-distributing any observed effects over the remaining changes and biases until the analysis yields a result which appears more appropriate to the observer, for example showing that the observed performance changes can be attributed wholly or mainly to a small number of significant component changes and/or sensor biases.

A preferred method of carrying out this process for concentrating the attribution of the changes involves the following steps:

(a) evaluate an objective function f ;

$$f = (\underline{y} - \underline{C} \cdot \hat{\underline{x}})^T \cdot \underline{R}^{-1} \cdot (\underline{y} - \underline{C} \cdot \hat{\underline{x}})$$

(this gives a measure of the amount of unexplained measurement change and has a chi-square distribution, with the number of degrees of freedom equal to the number of performance measurements),

(b) normalise each element of the vector $\hat{\underline{x}}$ by dividing by the square root of the respective diagonal element of the \underline{P}_1 matrix to produce vector $\hat{\underline{x}}_n$ with elements given by:

$$\hat{\underline{x}}_n = \frac{\text{i'th element of } \hat{\underline{x}}}{\sqrt{\text{(i'th diagonal element of } \underline{P}_1)}}$$

(c) component changes and sensor biases whose elements in $\hat{\underline{x}}_n$ have absolute values less than the average of all the absolute values of the elements in $\hat{\underline{x}}_n$ are removed (at least one, but not all, of the component changes and sensor biases are removed in this step),

(d) the Kalman Filter is re-run, including only those component changes and sensor biases that have not been removed in step (c), to produce a new vector $\hat{\underline{x}}$ of best estimates of component changes and sensor biases,

(e) steps (a),(b) and (d) are repeated; in each repeat those component changes and sensor biases whose elements in $\hat{\underline{x}}_n$ which have absolute values that are lower than in the preceding run are removed,

(f) the repeats of steps (a),(b) and (d) are continued until only one component change or sensor bias is left and the series of vectors of best estimates of component changes and sensor biases (each with a different number of changes and biases) produced by each run of the Kalman Filter are numbered sequentially in the order in which they were generated,

(g) a maximum is selected for the objective function value, either empirically or by calculation from a chi-square probability distribution, the number of degrees of freedom (which is equal to the number of performance measurements) and a user-defined probability level: the highest-numbered $\hat{\underline{x}}$ vector from step (f) whose corresponding objective function value is less than this maximum is selected as the "best answer", i.e. the selected result contains the smallest set of component changes and/or sensor biases that successfully accounts for the observed performance measurement differences (if none of the objective function values are less than the maximum, the basic Kalman Filter result from the first run is taken as the "best answer"),

(h) the "best answer" is further modified by rejecting component changes and sensor biases whose elements in $\hat{\underline{x}}$ have absolute values less than either a user-specified absolute value or a user-specified

absolute number of standard deviations: the user is therefore presented with the most significant set of estimated component changes and sensor biases that generated the observed performance measurement differences.

5 FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF THE METHOD

The method described so far is one in which an analysis yields information based on a set of performance measurement differences obtained at a particular point in time. In certain situations, where the apparatus is being monitored over a period of time, it is possible to obtain a number of sets of performance measurement differences gathered sequentially over time. Each distinct type of performance measurement difference, gathered over time, can be considered as a time series in its own right, and can be processed using a number of well known prior art techniques, for example:

- a) moving average
- b) exponential smoothing
- 15 c) Bayesian Inferencing

Bayesian Inferencing is the preferred method of processing time series data, since an observed time series can be processed to produce:

- a) level estimates, i.e. estimates of the value of a parameter in which, as far as possible, spurious disturbances from point to point have been removed,
- 20 b) trend estimates, i.e. estimates of the rate of change of the parameter in question,
- c) differences between the observed value of the parameter in question and the value that would be predicted from the level and trend estimates associated with the previous point in the time series.

Full details of this method are given in "Bayesian Forecasting", P J Harrison and C F Stevens, J Royal Statistical Soc., 1976 and "A Bayesian Approach to Short-Term Forecasting", P J Harrison and C F Stevens, Operational Research Quarterly, Vol 2 No 4 1971. The equations used are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 s_1 &= (p_{11,k-1}/r + q_{11}/r) + 2 \cdot (p_{12,k-1}/r + q_{12}/r) + (p_{22,k-1}/r + q_{22}/r) \\
 s_2 &= (p_{12,k-1}/r + q_{12}/r) + (p_{22,k-1}/r + q_{22}/r) \\
 s_3 &= (p_{22,k-1}/r + q_{22}/r) \\
 30 \quad \Delta_k &= \text{Obs}_k - (\hat{\text{Level}}_{k-1} + \hat{\text{Trend}}_{k-1}) \\
 \hat{\text{Level}}_k &= (\hat{\text{Level}}_{k-1} + \hat{\text{Trend}}_{k-1}) + (s_1/(s_1 + 1)) \cdot \Delta_k \\
 \hat{\text{Trend}}_k &= \hat{\text{Trend}}_{k-1} + (s_2/(s_1 + 1)) \cdot \Delta_k \\
 p_{11,k}/r &= s_1/(s_1 + 1) \\
 p_{12,k}/r &= s_2/(s_1 + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

35

$$p_{22,k}/r = s_3 - s_2^2/(s_1 + 1)$$

40 where

q_{11}/r , q_{12}/r , q_{22}/r are the level variance, the level-trend covariance and the trend variance, each divided by the variance of the repeatability of the observations.

p_{11}/r , p_{12}/r , p_{22}/r are the level estimate variance, the level-trend estimate covariance and the trend estimate variance, each divided by the repeatability of the observations.

45 Obs = observed value of parameter

Delta = difference between observed value of parameter and value predicted from previous level and trend estimates

$\hat{\text{Level}}$ = Level estimate

$\hat{\text{Trend}}$ = Trend estimate

50 s_1 , s_2 , s_3 are defined by the above equations, and used to simplify the algebra

subscript k denotes current point in time series

subscript k-1 denotes previous point in time series

All the available performance measurement differences, gathered over time, can be processed, using the above algorithm (or one of the other prior art techniques) to produce sets of measurement difference level estimates, trend estimates and differences between observed and predicted values (or output appropriate to the other prior art techniques) corresponding to each observed set of performance measurement differences. The other prior art techniques can similarly be operated on time series data to produce results in accordance with their known capabilities. In the case of Bayesian Inferencing, each set of

measurement difference level estimates produced can be used as input in the method according to the invention to give estimates of component changes and/or sensor biases that are unaffected, as far as possible, by spurious disturbances in the performance measurement differences. Furthermore, each set of measurement difference trend estimates can be used as input in the method according to the invention to give estimates of the rate of change of component changes and/or biases, and each set of differences between observed and predicted measurement difference can be used as input in the method to detect sudden changes in the component changes and/or sensor biases from one point to the next. If other prior art algorithms are used, the sets of output produced can, in a similar manner, be input to the method according to the invention to produce corresponding component change and/or sensor bias assessments.

EXAMPLES OF THE ANALYTICAL METHODS OF THE INVENTION

In the further description of the invention, reference will be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of the analytical situation to which the invention is applied,

Fig. 2 illustrates the System Matrix of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic sectional view of a single-spool gas turbine indicating the performance measurement sources used for an analysis of its performance by the method of the invention, and

Fig. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating the application of the method of the invention to estimate levels and trends.

Fig. 1 illustrates schematically the manner in which the vector x of unknown component changes and unknown sensor biases produces an observed vector y of observed differences in the performance measurements. The changes are imposed on the apparatus, i.e. in the example under discussion this being the gas turbine shown in Fig. 3, and in that apparatus, the interdependence of the variables of the system give rise to performance measurement differences, the observation of which may be corrupted to some extent by noise or random variations (v). The relationships between component changes and sensor biases and observed performance measurement changes are defined by the System Matrix C shown in Fig. 2. This consists of an $(m - j)$ component exchange rate table which sets out the effects of small changes in a series of j component performance parameters on a series of m performance measurements at specific environmental conditions and a specific power level, an environmental exchange rate table in the form of an $(m - k)$ exchange rate table setting out the effects on the m performance measurements of small changes in the $(k-1)$ environmental conditions and power level, and finally a table for sensor bias, stating that a specific bias in a performance measurement produces a corresponding change in that measurement while leaving all other measurements unaffected.

Fig. 3 shows a single-shaft gas turbine jet engine with a compressor section 100 immediately downstream of an air inlet 102 and coupled by a rotary shaft 104 to a turbine section 106 that follows a combustor section 108. Air is drawn through the inlet 102 into the compressor section, the compressed air is burnt with fuel injected into the combustor section and the hot combustion gases flow through the turbine section to drive the shaft 104 before exiting as a jet through an exhaust nozzle 110. The figure indicates the measurements taken during operation, in this case being those available from normal test bed instrumentation. They consist of the inlet air flow rate (W1A), inlet total pressure (P2) and total temperature (T2), shaft speed (NH), compressor exit total pressure (P3) and total temperature (T3), fuel flow rate (WFE), turbine exit total temperature (T7) and net engine thrust (FN), this last providing a power level parameter.

The component exchange rate table, giving the percentage change in each of these measurements for a 1% change of component performance parameter is shown in Table 1. The component performance parameters here are compressor efficiency (DE25) and capacity (CW25), turbine efficiency (DE4) and capacity (CW4), and propelling nozzle area change (A8).

Table 2 gives the environmental exchange rate table showing the percentage change in each of the measurements for a 1% bias in the thrust sensor measurement (FNS), the inlet pressure sensor measurement (P2S) and the inlet temperature sensor measurement (T2S).

These first two tables are concatenated with a matrix showing the effects of performance measurement sensor bias to give the System Matrix shown in Table 3. The matrix of measurement biases indicates that a 1% sensor bias for any measurement produces a corresponding change in that measurement but no others. In this example, a small simplification is obtained by assuming that there can be no bias in the shaft speed measurement.

From experience and judgement of the equipment being used, standard deviations of the repeatability of the measurements from the instrumentation are produced, as shown in Table 4. From these values can be generated the a-priori measurement repeatability covariance matrix R shown in Table 5. The matrix is

symmetric and is thus defined by the lower triangular elements that have been set out.

In Table 6 are listed standard deviations of the component performance parameters and sensor biases respectively which, when squared, provide a diagonal a-priori covariance matrix \underline{Q} of component changes and sensor biases.

5 From the data of the preceding tables the Kalman Gain Matrix \underline{K} can be obtained, as shown in Table 7, for use in a first pass. This data also provides an a-posteriori covariance matrix (\underline{P}_1) of best estimates of component changes and sensor biases in accordance with the assumptions of Tables 1 to 6. The test measurements provide a vector (\underline{y}) which can then be processed with this data in accordance with the formulae given earlier for a first pass of the Kalman Filter. In subsequent passes a similar procedure is
10 followed, using as a modified input the progressively smaller number of component changes and sensor biases remaining as one or more are discarded after each pass.

To illustrate the operation of the concentration process, a simulated example will be described based on the engine of Fig. 3 and the data of the preceding tables, in which the analysis of a specific set of component performance parameter changes and sensor biases is considered by using, as input, the
15 performance measurement differences generated by those changes and biases. Thus, Table 8 shows, for the engine, the performance measurement differences generated by a -1% change of compressor efficiency, a -0.5% bias in the engine thrust sensor (thrust being used as the power level parameter) and a +0.5% bias in the turbine exit temperature sensor. If these measurement changes are subjected to analysis by the Kalman Filter, the results obtained are as shown in Table 9.

20 This first analysis is then subjected to the concentration process. Tables 10 and 11 give the calculations over a total of six runs of the Kalman Filter. Column 1 of Table 10 shows the results of the first run corresponding to Table 9 and Column 1 of Table 11 shows the square roots of the diagonals of the a-posteriori covariance matrix \underline{P}_1 associated with the respective component changes and sensor biases. The absolute values of normalised elements of this vector of component changes and sensor biases are determined and values less than the average are removed (see Table 12) and in the second column of
25 Table 10 is shown the second run of the Kalman Filter in which these removed elements are assumed to be zero.

The elements in column 2 of Tables 10 and 11, obtained following this second run of the Kalman Filter, indicate that one element, the engine inlet airflow sensor bias, can be eliminated for a third run of the
30 Kalman Filter (see Table 12). Similarly, as shown in Table 12, the elements in column 3 of Tables 10 and 11, obtained following this third run of the Kalman Filter, indicate that two further elements, the change of turbine efficiency and the inlet temperature sensor bias, can be eliminated for a fourth run of the Kalman Filter. Further reiteration of the process leads to a single component performance change remaining for the sixth run.

35 For each run an objective function is calculated, based on the six degrees of freedom of the system (the number of observed performance measurements being six). From chi-square tables with six degrees of freedom and an acceptable probability level of 95%, the maximum value of the objective function is determined as 12.6. In simple statistical terms, passes 1 and 4 might be considered the best answers because they give the lowest values for the objective function; however, applying the further condition that
40 the answer should explain the performance changes in terms of the minimum number of component changes and sensor biases, pass 4 of the Kalman Filter is selected as the "best answer". It will be noted that this result reproduces very closely the actual component changes and sensor biases assumed at the outset.

As discussed above, it is also possible to apply known techniques to a number of sets of performance
45 measurement differences observed over a period of time to obtain smoothed values and estimate trends and deviations of observed values from predicted levels. The application of the Kalman Filter technique of concentrating the estimates of component performance changes and/or sensor biases into a minimum number of such parameters, as described with reference to the preceding figures and tables, to the derivation of such level and trend estimates is illustrated schematically in Fig. 4. This shows the
50 measurement differences obtained from the engine of Fig. 3 being employed in the one instance (Block A) in the concentration process already described to give a "best answer" from an instantaneous set of data, and in the other instance (Block B) through the processing, by the known techniques, of a number of such sets of data collected at intervals to derive the levels and trends contained in that data. The data from Block B itself requires further analysis to produce an estimate of the levels and trends in the component changes
55 and/or sensor biases that underlie the measurement difference levels and trends produced in the process of Block B. For this purpose, the data output from Block B is input to a Kalman Filter in which a concentration process of the form already described is performed (Block C).

Fig. 4 indicates the different sets of data that may be derived in Block B, namely level estimates, trend estimates and differences (Δ) between observed and predicted values. Each set is subjected to analysis separately by a Kalman Filter with which the concentration technique is applied to give a final output which satisfactorily explains the data in terms of the least number of component performance changes and/or sensor biases.

Also indicated in Fig. 4 is the use of the basic (unconcentrated) output from the Kalman Filter (Block A) from a series of sets of measurement difference inputs to provide the data for the algorithms for smoothing and for deriving trends in the data (Block D), although generally processing in the manner shown in Blocks B and C will be preferred.

As an example of the manner in which the foregoing analysis of levels and trends operates, there will now be described a case in which, in a series of 20 sets of measurement readings from a gas turbine, after the 8th set the compressor efficiency (DE25) begins to fall at the rate of 0.2% in each succeeding reading. With the same sensor sources of the earlier example of tables 8-12, the measurement differences for each of the data sets 1-20 provides the matrix shown in Table 13.

By employing this matrix in the prior art, a table of level estimates for the measurement differences is produced (Table 14). When this data is processed by the Kalman Filter in the reiterative manner already described with reference to Tables 8-12, "best answers" for the smoothed values of changes in compressor efficiency appear as shown in Table 15. It will be seen that, because of smoothing, when the change of level first occurs it is not recorded because the smoothing process indicates a change too small to be noted. When it first appears in set 11, the actual change (-0.6) is underestimated but the true value is soon reached (set 15 onwards).

A similar pattern emerges when the trend estimates (Table 16) are input to the Kalman Filter and by the reiterative process the results shown in Table 17 are produced, showing a close approach to the actual trend from measurement set 13 onwards.

From the foregoing description, it will be clear that the methods disclosed can be applied to a wide range of apparatus and plant if required. In the gas turbine field another application lies in test bed calibration; thus by running a particular engine in different test beds in turn, the differences of sensor bias in the two test beds can be analysed using the method of the invention.

TABLE 1
COMPONENT EXCHANGE RATE TABLE

5

	DE25	CW25	DE4	CW4	A8
P3	0.0510	0.0240	0.1380	-0.9400	0.4010
10 T3	-0.4240	-0.1600	0.2970	-0.3820	0.4120
T7	-0.9700	-0.3630	-0.8300	0.3550	-0.2390
WFE	-1.0190	-0.3710	-0.8650	0.3770	0.0870
NH	0.1010	-0.5220	0.5600	-0.3170	0.6470
15 W1A	0.5280	0.2060	0.4580	-0.1860	0.4680

20

TABLE 2
ENVIRONMENTAL EXCHANGE RATE TABLE

25

	FNS	P2S	T2S
P3	-0.6100	-0.4140	0.0380
30 T3	-0.2920	0.3520	-0.9390
T7	-0.6780	0.8360	-0.9890
WFE	-1.3560	0.5670	-0.6460
35 NH	-0.3240	0.4080	-0.4600
W1A	-0.2840	-0.7760	0.5330

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TABLE 3
SYSTEM MATRIX

	DE25	CW25	DE4	CW4	A8	FNS	P2S	T2S	P3S	T3S	T7S	WFES	WIAS
P3	0.051	0.024	0.138	-0.940	0.401	-0.610	-0.414	0.038	1.0	0	0	0	0
T3	0.424	-0.160	0.297	-0.382	0.412	-0.292	0.352	-0.939	0	1.0	0	0	0
T7	-0.970	-0.363	-0.830	0.355	-0.239	-0.678	0.836	-0.989	0	0	1.0	0	0
WFE	-1.019	-0.371	-0.865	0.377	0.087	-1.356	0.567	-0.646	0	0	0	1.0	0
NH	0.101	-0.522	0.560	-0.317	0.647	-0.324	0.408	-0.460	0	0	0	0	0
W1A	0.528	0.206	0.458	-0.186	0.468	-0.284	-0.776	0.533	0	0	0	0	1.0

TABLE 4
INSTRUMENT REPEATABILITIES USED TO GENERATE \underline{R} MATRIX

P3	0.06300
T3	0.09500
T7	0.05100
WFE	0.04200
NH	0.01000
W1A	0.09000
FN	0.08500
P2	0.06300
T2	0.03100

TABLE 5
A-PRIORI MEASUREMENT REPEATABILITY COVARIANCE MATRIX (\underline{R})

	P3	T3	T7	WFE	NH	W1A
P3	0.0073391					
T3	0.0006742	0.0109801				
T7	0.0015783	0.0034908	0.0096361			
WFE	0.0050210	0.0042358	0.0091378	0.0167259		
NH	0.0007407	0.0016686	0.0033781	0.0043780	0.0017225	
W1A	0.0025462	-0.0009660	-0.0016902	0.0007052	-0.0008274	0.0113458

TABLE 6
STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR THE A-PRIORI COVARIANCE
MATRIX OF COMPONENT CHANGES AND SENSOR BIASSES

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DE25	0.894
------	-------

CW25	0.950
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DE4	0.962
-----	-------

CW4	0.642
-----	-------

20

A8	1.087
----	-------

FNS	0.619
-----	-------

P2S	0.764
-----	-------

25

T2S	0.644
-----	-------

P35	0.568
-----	-------

30

T35	0.414
-----	-------

T75	0.425
-----	-------

WFES	0.589
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WIAS	0.426
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Note: The covariance matrix is a diagonal matrix made
up from the squares of the above values.

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TABLE 7
KALMAN GAIN MATRIX ON FIRST PASS

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	P3	T3	T7	WFE	NH	WIA
10						
DE25	-0.0244	-0.4694	0.0029	-0.1541	0.3774	0.0555
CW25	0.0020	0.5891	-0.1336	-0.0275	-0.8070	0.2112
15						
DE4	-0.1849	0.3103	-0.2284	-0.1501	0.2518	0.0027
CW4	-0.4512	-0.1045	0.0297	0.1200	0.0631	0.2487
A8	-0.0143	0.1009	-0.0861	0.1997	0.4126	0.3788
20						
FNS	-0.1256	0.1128	-0.0884	-0.2076	-0.0566	-0.2489
P2S	-0.1246	-0.1394	0.0329	-0.0319	0.4084	-0.3576
25						
T2S	0.0369	-0.3847	-0.1740	0.1331	0.0736	-0.0036
P35	0.4711	-0.1432	0.0617	-0.0844	-0.0084	-0.2272
T35	-0.0761	0.4203	-0.1019	0.0125	-0.2679	0.0425
30						
T75	0.0345	-0.1074	0.4657	-0.2597	0.0478	0.2568
WFES	-0.0907	0.0254	-0.4989	0.4556	-0.0202	-0.1308
35						
WIAS	-0.1278	0.0450	0.2580	-0.0684	-0.0635	0.4264

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TABLE 8

Measurement Differences (y) created by -1% compressor
efficiency, -0.5% thrust (power setting) bias and
+0.5% turbine exit temperature bias

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Compressor exit pressure change	(P3)	+0.254%
Compressor exit temperature change	(T3)	+0.570%
Turbine exit temperature change	(T7)	+1.809%
Fuel flow change	(WFE)	+1.697%
Shaft speed change	(NH)	+0.061%
Inlet airflow change	(W1A)	-0.386%

TABLE 9Analysis by Kalman Filter of above measurement changes

5

	Compressor efficiency change	(DE25)	-0.528%	+
10	Compressor flow capacity change	(CW25)	-0.083%	
	Turbine efficiency change	(DE4)	-0.524%	*
	Turbine flow capacity change	(CW4)	-0.009%	
15	Propelling nozzle area change	(A8)	+0.116%	
	Thrust sensor bias	(FNS)	-0.387%	+
20	Inlet pressure sensor bias	(P2S)	+0.057%	
	Inlet temperature sensor bias	(T2S)	-0.293%	*
	Compressor exit pressure sensor			
25	bias	(P3S)	+0.094%	
	Compressor exit temperature			
30	sensor bias	(T3S)	+0.024%	
	Turbine exit temperature sensor			
35	bias	(T7S)	+0.253%	+
	Fuel flow sensor bias	(WFES)	-0.089%	
	Inlet airflow sensor bias	(WIAS)	+0.175%	*

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Notes

1. Note underestimation of changes/biases used to generate
 45 measurements (+), and estimation of spurious changes/biases (significant
 values marked *) caused by "smearing".
2. No shaft speed sensor bias is assumed to be present.

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TABLE 10

5

Sequential estimates of component changes and sensor biases

10	Pass No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
	DE25	-0.528%	-0.530%	-0.573%	-1.004%	-1.061%	-1.227%
15	CW25	-0.083%	-	-	-	-	-
	DE4	-0.524%	-0.326%	-0.288%	-	-	-
	CW4	-0.009%	-	-	-	-	-
20	A8	+0.116%	-	-	-	-	-
	FNS	-0.387%	-0.502%	-0.514%	-0.487%	-	-
25	P2S	+0.057%	-	-	-	-	-
	T2S	-0.293%	-0.295%	-0.250%	-	-	-
	P3S	+0.094%	-	-	-	-	-
30	T3S	+0.024%	-	-	-	-	-
	T7S	+0.253%	+0.388%	+0.414%	+0.488%	+0.434%	-
35	WFES	-0.089%	-	-	-	-	-
	WIAS	+0.175%	+0.046%	-	-	-	-
40	Objective Function Value	0.021	0.214	0.244	0.043	27.932	69.811

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TABLE 11

Square roots of diagonals of \underline{P}_1 matrix

Pass No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
DE25	0.68121	0.53285	0.52030	0.04418	0.04282	0.03405
CW25	0.71771	-	-	-	-	-
DE4	0.66073	0.35918	0.34459	-	-	-
CW4	0.47459	-	-	-	-	-
A8	0.75463	-	-	-	-	-
FNS	0.44891	0.11166	0.10670	0.09352	-	-
P2S	0.56342	-	-	-	-	-
T2S	0.49342	0.32309	0.30037	-	-	-
P3S	0.41307	-	-	-	-	-
T3S	0.31521	-	-	-	-	-
T7S	0.31066	0.13278	0.11353	0.06837	0.06759	-
WFES	0.43457	-	-	-	-	-
WIAS	0.32263	0.12175	-	-	-	-

TABLE 12

Absolute values of normalized estimates of component changes and sensor
biasses, obtained by dividing the elements in Table 10 by the elements in Table
11, and removing sign.

Pass No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
DE25	0.775	0.995	1.101	22.725	24.778	36.035
CW25	0.116 *	-	-	-	-	-
DE4	0.793	0.908	0.836 +	-	-	-
CW4	0.019 *	-	-	-	-	-
A8	0.154 *	-	-	-	-	-
FNS	0.862	4.496	4.817	5.207 X	-	-
P2S	0.101 *	-	-	-	-	-
T2S	0.594	0.913	0.832 +	-	-	-
P3S	0.228 *	-	-	-	-	-
T3S	0.076 *	-	-	-	-	-
T7S	0.814	2.922	3.647	7.138	6.421 X	-
WFES	0.205 *	-	-	-	-	-
WIAS	0.542	0.378 +	-	-	-	-
Average	0.406					

Notes

1. * denotes elements rejected because they are less than the average (pass 1 only)
2. + denotes elements rejected because they are less than the values in the previous pass
3. X denotes elements rejected because they are the lowest values in the current pass.

TABLE 13
MEASUREMENT DIFFERENCES FOR 20 SERIAL SETS OF READINGS

5	SET	P3	T3	T7	WFE	NH	WIA
	1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	5	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
15	6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	7	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	8	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
20	9	-0.010	0.085	0.194	0.204	-0.020	-0.106
	10	-0.020	0.170	0.388	0.408	-0.040	-0.211
	11	-0.031	0.254	0.582	0.611	-0.061	-0.317
	12	-0.041	0.339	0.776	0.815	-0.081	-0.422
25	13	-0.051	0.424	0.970	1.019	-0.101	-0.528
	14	-0.061	0.509	1.164	1.223	-0.121	-0.634
	15	-0.071	0.594	1.358	1.427	-0.141	-0.739
30	16	-0.082	0.678	1.552	1.630	-0.162	-0.845
	17	-0.092	0.763	1.746	1.834	-0.182	-0.950
	18	-0.102	0.848	1.940	2.038	-0.202	-1.056
	19	-0.112	0.933	2.134	2.242	-0.222	-1.162
35	20	-0.122	1.018	2.328	2.446	-0.242	-1.267

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TABLE 14
LEVEL ESTIMATES FOR THE MEASUREMENT DIFFERENCES

5	SET	P3	T3	T7	WFE	NH	WIA
	1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	5	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
15	6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	7	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	8	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	9	-0.006	0.047	0.107	0.113	-0.011	-0.058
20	10	-0.015	0.123	0.281	0.295	-0.029	-0.153
	11	-0.026	0.213	0.488	0.513	-0.051	-0.266
	12	-0.037	0.310	0.708	0.744	-0.074	-0.386
	13	-0.049	0.406	0.928	0.975	-0.097	-0.505
25	14	-0.060	0.499	1.143	1.200	-0.119	-0.622
	15	-0.071	0.590	1.350	1.418	-0.141	-0.735
	16	-0.082	0.678	1.552	1.630	-0.162	-0.845
	17	-0.092	0.765	1.749	1.838	-0.182	-0.952
30	18	-0.102	0.850	1.944	2.042	-0.202	-1.058
	19	-0.112	0.934	2.138	2.246	-0.223	-1.164
	20	-0.123	1.019	2.331	2.448	-0.243	-1.269

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TABLE 15
FINAL ESTIMATES OF LEVELS OF CHANGES AND/OR BIASES

SET	DE25	CW25	DE4	CW4	A8	FNS	P25	T25	P35	T35	T75	WFES	WIAS
1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
3	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
4	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
8	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
11	-0.503	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
12	-0.729	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
13	-0.955	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
14	-1.176	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
15	-1.390	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
16	-1.598	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
17	-1.801	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	-2.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19	-2.201	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
20	-2.399	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

TABLE 16
TREND ESTIMATES FOR THE MEASUREMENT DIFFERENCES

5	SET	P3	T3	T7	WFE	NH	WIA
	1	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
10	2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	3	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	4	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	5	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
15	6	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	7	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	8	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
	9	-0.0022	0.0179	0.0410	0.0431	-0.0043	-0.0223
20	10	-0.0048	0.0401	0.0917	0.0963	-0.0095	-0.0499
	11	-0.0071	0.0594	0.1360	0.1429	-0.0142	-0.0740
	12	-0.0088	0.0735	0.1680	0.1765	-0.0175	-0.0915
25	13	-0.0099	0.0821	0.1879	0.1973	-0.0196	-0.1023
	14	-0.0104	0.0866	0.1980	0.2080	-0.0206	-0.1078
	15	-0.0106	0.0882	0.2017	0.2119	-0.0210	-0.1098
	16	-0.0106	0.0882	0.2017	0.2119	-0.0210	-0.1098
30	17	-0.0105	0.0875	0.2001	0.2102	-0.0208	-0.1089
	18	-0.0104	0.0866	0.1981	0.2081	-0.0206	-0.1078
	19	-0.0103	0.0858	0.1963	0.2062	-0.0204	-0.1069
	20	-0.0103	0.0853	0.1950	0.2049	-0.0203	-0.1062

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TABLE 17
FINAL ESTIMATES OF TRENDS OF CHANGES AND/OR BIASES

SET	DE25	CW25	DE4	CW4	A8	FNS	P25	T25	P35	T35	T75	WFES	WIAS
1	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
3	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
5	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
6	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
7	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
8	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
9	-0.0422	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
10	-0.0944	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
11	-0.1400	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
12	-0.1730	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
13	-0.1934	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
14	-0.2038	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
15	-0.2076	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
16	-0.2077	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
17	-0.2060	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
18	-0.2039	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
19	-0.2021	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
20	-0.2008	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Claims

1. A method for processing data relating to the performance of an apparatus, the apparatus including a plurality of components whose individual performances affect the performance of the apparatus and a plurality of sensors for giving inputs to a performance measurement system, the inputs from the sensors being subject to biases which produce errors in the measured performance of the apparatus, the method involving determination of changes in component performance and magnitude of sensor biases from a series of performance measurements, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) defining a-priori information required by a Kalman filter, comprising
 - i) a covariance matrix of component performance measurement changes and sensor biases,
 - ii) a measurement non-repeatability covariance matrix,
 - iii) a system matrix which provides relationships between observed performance measurement changes and sensor biases;

- b) using the performance measurement system to obtain datum levels of the performance measurements from the apparatus;
 c) using the performance measurement system to obtain performance measurements from the apparatus;
 5 d) using data obtained in steps (b) and (c) to derive performance measurement differences from datum levels;
 e) using data obtained in steps (a) and (d) to derive a most likely set of component performance changes and sensor biases by employing a Kalman filter; the method being characterised by the further steps of
 10 f) evaluating an objective function giving a measure of the amount of unexplained performance measurement change and/or the amounts of component performance measurement change and sensor bias in the solution from (e),
 g) discarding one or more of the component performance changes and/or sensor biases, to leave one or more of said component changes and/or sensor biases for evaluation;
 15 h) repeating steps (e) to (g), if required, until the total number of component performance changes and sensor biases remaining is one; and
 i) considering sets of estimated component performance changes and sensor biases produced in each repeat of step (e), together with the corresponding objective function evaluated according to step (f), to identify as a best result that repeat of step (e) which has produced a minimum number of
 20 component performance changes and sensor biases that satisfactorily account for the calculated performance measurement differences.
2. A method according to claim 1, in which the objective function is evaluated by deriving the sum of the squares of the unexplained performance measurement changes, weighted according to the measurement non-repeatability covariance matrix.
 25
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the component performance changes and sensor biases are normalised by dividing individual estimated component performance changes and sensor biases by the square roots of the corresponding diagonal elements of an a-posteriori covariance matrix produced as output from the Kalman filter.
 30
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein, in the best result identified in step (i), component performance changes and/or sensor biases whose values are less than a predetermined lower level are discarded.
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5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which an average absolute amount of normalised change is evaluated after a first repeat of step (e) and provides a datum for discarding component performance changes and/or sensor biases prior to a second such repeat.
- 40 6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in which, at the end of the second and each further repeat of step (e), changes in the absolute amounts of normalised change relative to the preceding repeat are evaluated for each of the remaining component performance changes and/or sensor biases and provide datums for discarding component performance changes and/or sensor biases prior to the next repeat.
- 45 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein component performance changes and/or sensor biases are discarded if they are less than their corresponding values in said previous pass, subject to at least the greatest said change or bias being retained and at least the smallest being discarded.
- 50 8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 in which a-priori values for elements of the covariance matrix of the component performance changes and sensor biases are estimated and a product is formed with (i) a Kalman Gain Matrix of the Kalman filter and (ii) the System Matrix, to evaluate a measure of confusion of desired component performance changes and/or sensor biases with other changes and/or biases due to said estimates, and said estimates are adjusted to reduce the confusion
 55 indicated by said evaluation.
9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8 in which a-priori information supplied to the Kalman filter includes a best estimate of the effects on the matrices of at least one anticipated component

performance change and/or sensor bias.

10. A method according to any preceding claim, in which a plurality of sets of performance measurements are obtained at intervals and employed to determine levels and/or trends and/or variations from predicted values in component performance change and/or sensor bias.
11. A method according to claim 10, in which said sets of performance measurements are analysed for said levels and/or trends, and the level values and/or the trend values and/or the differences between observed and predicted measurements that are obtained from said analysis are then subjected to Kalman filter processing.
12. A method according to claim 10, in which said sets of performance measurements are subjected to Kalman filter processing and the values obtained are then analysed for levels and/or trends and/or variations from predicted values of component performance change and/or sensor bias.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Verarbeitung von Daten, die sich auf den Betrieb einer Vorrichtung beziehen, die mehrere Komponenten aufweist, deren individuelles Betriebsverhalten den Betrieb der Vorrichtung beeinflusst, und die mehrere Sensoren besitzt, um einem Betriebsmeßsystem Eingänge zu liefern, wobei die Eingänge von den Sensoren Fehlern unterworfen sind, die Fehler in dem gemessenen Betriebsverhalten der Vorrichtung erzeugen, wobei das Verfahren Änderungen im Betriebsverhalten der Komponenten und in der Größe der Sensorfehler aus einer Reihe von Betriebsmessungen ableitet, wobei das Verfahren die folgenden Schritte umfaßt:
 - a) es wird eine a-priori-Information definiert, die für ein Kalman-Filter erforderlich ist und folgende Bestandteile aufweist:
 - i) eine Kovarianz-Matrix von Betriebsmeßänderungen der Komponenten und Sensorfehler,
 - ii) eine Messung einer nicht reproduzierbaren Kovarianz-Matrix,
 - iii) eine System-Matrix, die eine Beziehung zwischen beobachteten Betriebsmessungsänderungen und Sensorfehlern liefert;
 - b) es wird das Betriebsmeßsystem benutzt, um Bezugswerte der Betriebsmessungen der Vorrichtung zu erlangen;
 - c) es wird das Betriebsmeßsystem benutzt, um Betriebsmessungen von der Vorrichtung zu erhalten;
 - d) es werden die Daten, die in den Schritten (b) und (c) erlangt wurden, benutzt, um Betriebsmeßdifferenzen von den Bezugswerten abzuleiten;
 - e) es werden die in den Schritten (a) und (d) erlangten Daten benutzt, um eine höchstwahrscheinliche Gruppe von Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehlern durch Benutzung eines Kalman-Filters abzuleiten;wobei das Verfahren durch die folgenden Schritte gekennzeichnet ist:
 - f) es wird eine objektive Funktion berechnet, die ein Maß der Werte unerklärter Betriebsmeßänderungen und/oder der Werte von Komponentenbetriebsmeßänderungen und Sensorfehlern in der Lösung aus (e) liefert;
 - g) es wird eine oder es werden mehrere der Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler ausgeschieden, um eine oder mehrere der Komponentenänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler zur Berechnung zu belassen;
 - h) es werden die Schritte (e) bis (g) erforderlichenfalls wiederholt, bis die Gesamtzahl von Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehlern, die verbleiben, Eins wird; und
 - i) es werden die Gruppen berechneter Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehler, die bei jeder Wiederholung des Schrittes (e) erzeugt werden, zusammen mit der entsprechenden objektiven Funktion betrachtet, die gemäß dem Schritt (f) berechnet wurde, um als bestes Ergebnis jene Wiederholung des Schrittes (e) zu identifizieren, die eine minimale Zahl von Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehlern erzeugt hat, die in zufriedenstellender Weise zu den berechneten Betriebsmeßdifferenzen beitragen.
2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, bei welchem die objektive Funktion dadurch berechnet wird, daß die Summe der Quadrate der unerklärten Betriebsmeßänderungen gebildet wird, gewichtet gemäß der Messung der nicht reproduzierbaren Kovarianz-Matrix.

3. Verfahren nach den Ansprüchen 1 oder 2, bei welchem die Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehler normalisiert werden, indem individuelle berechnete Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehler durch die Quadratwurzeln der entsprechenden Diagonalelemente einer a-posteriori-Kovarianz-Matrix geteilt werden, die am Ausgang des Kalman-Filters erzeugt wird.
- 5 4. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, bei welchem in dem besten Ergebnis, welches während des Schrittes (i) erzeugt wird, Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler, deren Werte kleiner sind als ein vorbestimmter niedriger Wert, ausgeschieden werden.
- 10 5. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, bei welchem ein Durchschnitts-Absolutwert der normalisierten Änderung nach einer ersten Wiederholung des Schrittes (e) berechnet wird und ein Bezugswert gebildet wird, um Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler auszuschneiden, bevor eine zweite derartige Wiederholung erfolgt.
- 15 6. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, bei welchem am Ende der zweiten und jeder weiteren Wiederholung des Schrittes (e) Änderungen in den Absolutwerten der normalisierten Änderung relativ zu der vorhergehenden Wiederholung für jede der verbleibenden Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler berechnet und Bezugswerte gebildet werden, um Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler auszuschneiden, bevor die nächste Wiederholung erfolgt.
- 20 7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 6, bei welchem Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler ausgeschieden werden, wenn sie kleiner sind als ihre entsprechenden Werte in dem vorherigen Durchlauf, wobei wenigstens die größte Änderung oder der größte Fehler aufrechterhalten wird und wenigstens die kleinsten Werte ausgeschieden werden.
- 25 8. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, bei welchem a-priori-Werte für Elemente der Kovarianz-Matrix der Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und Sensorfehler berechnet werden und ein Produkt erzeugt wird mit (i) einer Kalman-Verstärker-Matrix des Kalman-Filters und (ii) mit der System-Matrix, um ein Maß der Konfusion der gewünschten Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehler mit anderen Änderungen und/oder Fehlern infolge der Abschätzungen zu berechnen, wobei diese Abschätzungen eingestellt werden, um die Konfusion, die durch die Berechnung angezeigt wird, zu vermindern.
- 30 9. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, bei welchem eine a-priori-Information, die dem Kalman-Filter zugeführt wird, eine beste Berechnung der Wirkungen der Matrizen von wenigstens einer der vorausgesagten Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehlern aufweist.
- 35 10. Verfahren nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei welchem mehrere Gruppen von Betriebsmessungen in Zeitintervallen erlangt und benutzt werden, um Pegel und/oder Trends und/oder Änderungen der vorausgesagten Werte der Komponentenbetriebsänderung und/oder Sensorfehler zu bestimmen.
- 40 11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, bei welchem die Gruppen von Betriebsmessungen für jene Pegel und/oder Trends analysiert werden und die sich aus der Analyse ergebenden Pegelwerte und/oder Trendwerte und/oder die Differenzen zwischen beobachteten und vorhergesagten Messungen dann einer Verarbeitung im Kalman-Filter unterworfen werden.
- 45 12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, bei welchem die Gruppen von Betriebsmessungen einer Kalman-Filter-Verarbeitung unterworfen werden und die erlangten Werte dann im Hinblick auf Pegel und/oder Trends und/oder Änderungen von vorausgesagten Werten von Komponentenbetriebsänderungen und/oder Sensorfehlern analysiert werden.
- 50

Revendications

- 55 1. Procédé pour traiter des données relatives à la performance d'un appareil, l'appareil comprenant une pluralité de composants dont les performances individuelles affectent la performance de l'appareil et une pluralité de capteurs pour fournir des entrées à un système de mesures de performance, les entrées des capteurs étant soumises à des biais qui produisent des erreurs dans la performance

mesurée de l'appareil, le procédé comprenant de déterminer des changements de performance des composants et d'amplitude des biais de capteurs à partir de séries de mesures de performance, le procédé comprenant les étapes de :

- a/ définir une information a priori nécessaire pour un filtre de Kalman, comprenant :
 - i) une matrice de covariance des changements de performance des composants et des biais de capteur,
 - ii) une matrice de covariance de non-répétabilité de mesure,
 - iii) une matrice système qui fournit des relations entre des changements observés de mesure de performance et des biais de capteur ;
 - b/ utiliser le système de mesure de performance pour obtenir des niveaux de référence des mesures de performance de l'appareil,
 - c/ utiliser le système de mesure de performance pour obtenir des mesures de performance de l'appareil,
 - d/ utiliser les données obtenues dans les étapes b/ et c/ pour déduire des différences de mesure de performance à partir des niveaux de référence,
 - e/ utiliser les données obtenues dans les étapes a/ et d/ pour déduire un ensemble le plus probable de changements de performances des composants et de biais de capteur en employant un filtre Kalman,
- le procédé étant caractérisé par les étapes supplémentaires de :
- f/ évaluer une fonction objective donnant une mesure de la valeur de changement de mesure de performance inexplicé et/ou les valeurs de changement de mesure de performance des composants et de biais de capteur dans la solution issue de e/,
 - g/ éliminer un ou plusieurs des changements de performance des composants et/ou des biais de capteur, pour laisser un ou plusieurs desdits changements de composants et/ou biais de capteur pour évaluation,
 - h/ répéter les étapes e/ à g/ si nécessaire, jusqu'à ce que le nombre total restant de changements de performance des composants et de biais de capteur soit un ; et
 - i/ considérer les ensembles de changements de performance des composants et de biais de capteur estimés, produits dans chaque répétition de l'étape e/, ainsi que la fonction objective correspondante évaluée selon l'étape f/ pour identifier comme meilleur résultat la répétition de l'étape e/ qui a produit un nombre minimum de changements de performance des composants et de biais de capteur qui rend compte de façon satisfaisante des différences de mesure de performances calculées.
2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la fonction objective est évaluée en déduisant la somme des carrés des changements de mesure de performance inexplicée, pondérée selon la matrice de covariance de non-répétabilité de mesure.
 3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, dans lequel les changements de performance des composants et les biais de capteurs sont normalisés en divisant les changements de performance des composants et les biais de capteur individuels estimés par les racines carrées des éléments diagonaux correspondants d'une matrice de covariance a posteriori produit comme sortie du filtre de Kalman.
 4. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel dans le meilleur résultat identifié dans l'étape i/, les changements de performance des composants et/ou les biais de capteur dont les valeurs sont inférieures à un niveau inférieur prédéterminé sont éliminées.
 5. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 4, dans lequel la valeur moyenne absolue de changements normalisés est évaluée après une première répétition de l'étape e/ et fournit une valeur de référence pour éliminer les changements de performance des composants et/ou les biais de capteur avant une telle seconde répétition.
 6. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 5, dans lequel à la fin de la seconde répétition et de chaque répétition ultérieure de l'étape e/, des changements dans les valeurs absolues de changements normalisés par rapport à la répétition précédente sont évaluées pour chacun des changements de performance des composants et/ou des biais de capteurs restant et fournissent des valeurs de référence pour éliminer des changements de performance des composants et/ou des biais de capteurs

avant la prochaine répétition.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 6, dans lequel des changements de performance des composants et/ou des biais de capteurs sont éliminés si ils sont inférieurs à leurs valeurs correspondantes dans ledit précédent passage, sous réserve d'au moins le plus grand dudit changement ou biais qui est retenu et d'au moins le plus petit dudit changement ou biais qui est éliminé.
8. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 7, dans lequel des valeurs a priori pour des éléments de la matrice de covariance des changements de performance des composants et des biais de capteur sont estimées et un produit est formé avec i) une Matrice Gain de Kalman du filtre de Kalman et ii) la Matrice Système, pour évaluer une mesure de confusion des changements de performance des composants et/ou des biais de capteur désirés avec d'autres changements et/ou biais en raison desdites estimations et lesdites estimations sont ajustées pour réduire la confusion indiquée par ladite évaluation.
9. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 8, dans lequel une information a priori envoyée au filtre de Kalman comprend une stimulation optimum des effets sur les matrices d'au moins un changement de performance des composants et/ou un biais de capteur anticipé.
10. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel une pluralité d'ensembles de mesures de performance sont obtenus à intervalles et employés pour déterminer des niveaux et/ou des tendances et/ou des variations à partir de valeurs anticipées de changements de performance des composants et/ou de biais de capteur.
11. Procédé selon la revendication 10, dans lequel lesdits ensembles de mesures de performance sont analysés pour lesdits niveaux et/ou tendances, et les valeurs de niveau et/ou les valeurs de tendance et/ou les différences entre les mesures observées et anticipées qui sont obtenues à partir de ladite analyse sont ensuite soumises à un traitement par filtre de Kalman.
12. Procédé selon la revendication 10, dans lequel lesdits ensembles de mesure de performance sont soumis à un traitement par filtre de Kalman et les valeurs obtenues sont ensuite analysées pour des niveaux et/ou des tendances et/ou des variations à partir de valeurs anticipées de changements de performance des composants et/ou de biais de capteur.

Fig. 1.

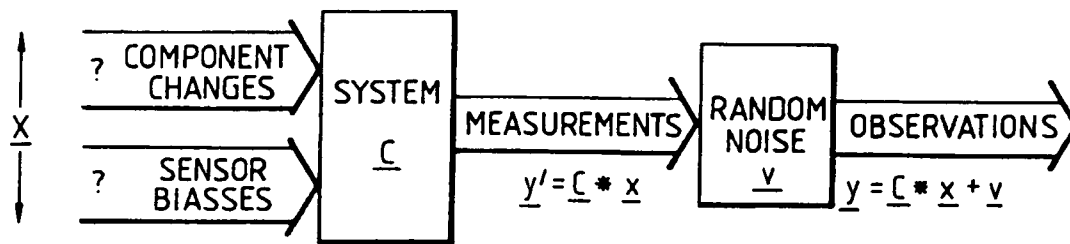


Fig. 2.

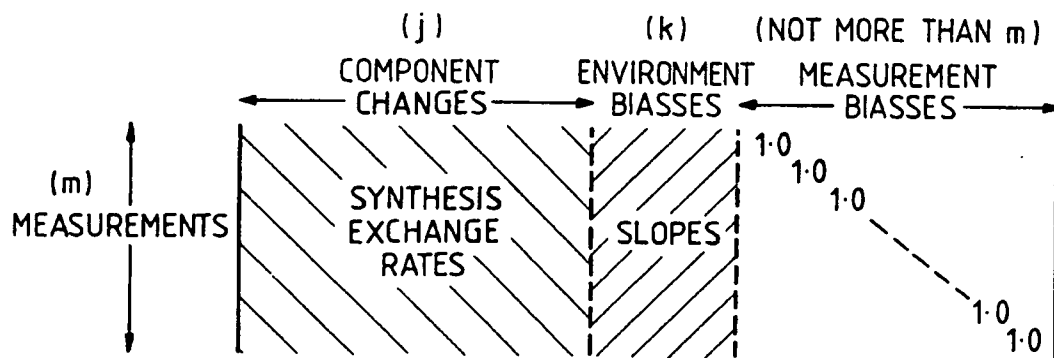


Fig. 3.

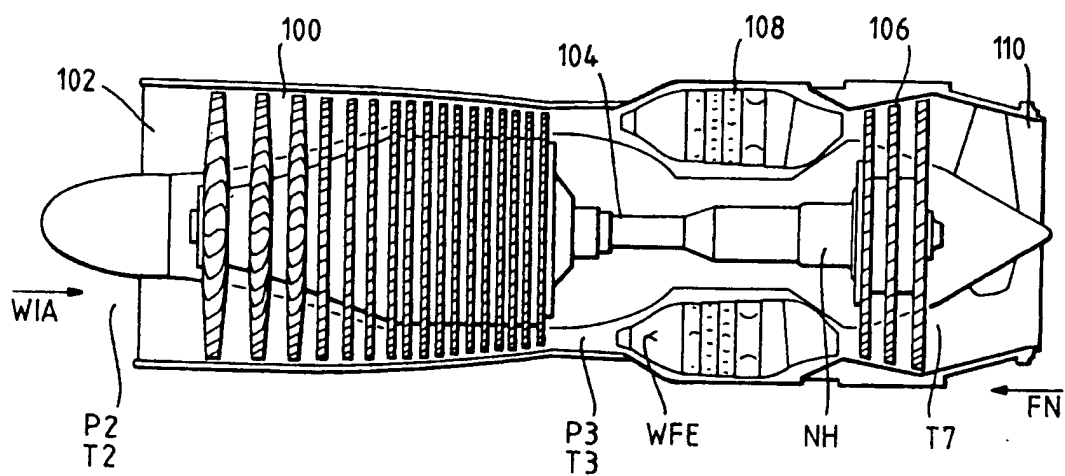


Fig. 4.

